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21 JUN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : ISSUE: Management Responsibility for the Communications System

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 11 June 69 for DD/S from D/PPB - Subj: "Issues" Papers

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval; this recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.

2. Reference is made to the draft ISSUE on this subject dated 10 June 1969. The draft paper adequately sets forth the basic facts concerning the management of the system but does not adequately treat the time-phasing for the transfer of management responsibilities. At the present time the personnel who are assigned to the Directorate of Science & Technology to operate the Communications System are all Office of Communications career personnel. The Chief of OSA Communications and his staff work in close coordination with the Office of Communications on all aspects of the operation of the Communications System with full consideration of present and long-range planning, sharing of existing facilities, avoiding duplication and the phasing of requirements for facilities and personnel in the most economical fashion. The Director of Communications has technical responsibility for the OSA network and career responsibility for the Communications personnel assigned to the OSA activity.

3. Representatives of OSA and OC have studied the operational and economic gains possible and the practicality of consolidation of the communications activities. This review was intensified earlier this year by the IG report touching on the "Possible Subordination of OSA Communications Activities to the OC." The response to the Inspector General, which has the complete concurrence of the Director, OSA, states that special projects such as IDEALIST, and others of this nature can best and most efficiently be served by a communications group dedicated to the projects being supported. The response also indicates that no significant savings or efficiencies will accrue from transferring the contractor-operated network to OC jurisdiction. Conversely, there appear to be operational advantages in retaining the project network under the jurisdiction of OSA.

4. At this time the Office of Communications is in the process of major technical renovations and updating of its Signal Center and systems. The

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transfer of the Communications positions and management responsibility from DD/S&T to OC at this time would be an extra burden. For the current efficiency of operations and future planning it is desirable that we continue the [] Communications System management as currently established. It is intended that OSA and OC will continue to monitor this situation and changes in operational requirements and capabilities may dictate additional consolidation in the future.

5. A further closely related consideration is the need for the establishment of a Project Review Committee under PPB as set forth in the ISSUE: "Agency Review Mechanism for Communications Requirements" which will permit the necessary advance planning and resources allocation for new projects which contain Communications requirements falling within the [] system. Even though a new project might be supported by the [] network, there is an impact on OC for the timely provision of the qualified personnel that might be required in the project.

6. It is recommended that:

a. The [] System continue at this time as currently operated with the understanding that the Director of Communications has technical responsibility for its operation.

b. [] Communications will be subjected to continuing review by the Director of Communications who will, when and if appropriate, recommend additional consolidation with regular Communications activities.

R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director
for Support

APPROVED: *

Executive Director-Comptroller

Date

* Provided that, in addition to technical responsibility, the Director of Communications be held responsible for planning and defending resource requirements for both the [] and regular communications activities.

Orig - Addr 41
1 - FR 42 Chrono, Subject
1 - MIA 43
2 - DD/S 44
1 - OC 47

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